7: Lesseps T-3 (1787-88) 1790 Kamchadal

352 bench is only a foot from the ground *,
511 and commonly ſerves as a bed for a num-
514 ber of families. I have counted in one yourt more than twenty perſons, men, women, and children. They eat, drink, and ſleep pell mell together, ſatisfy all the calls of nature without reſtraint or modeſty, and never complain of the noxious air that
354 prevails in theſe places. It is true there is
353 a fire almoſt inceſſantly. The fire-place is commonly either in the middle of the yourt or againſt one of the ſides. In the evening they rake the coals in a heap, and ſhut the entrance of the yourt, where the ſmoke ſhould evaporate; and thus the heat is concentrated, and kept up during the whole night. By means of a diſmal lamp, the form and diſagreeable ſmell of which I have before deſcribed, we diſcover in one

* Some of the yourts which I ſaw were floored with planks; but this is regarded as a luxury, and the generality have no other floor than the ground.

corner